

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A reinforced areal implant, comprising a net-type basic structure having a pore size in the range of 1.5 mm to 4.0 mm and textile strengthening elements whose bending resistance, measured in a three-point flexibility test at a support length of 20 mm, is in the range of 0.015 N/mm to 0.4 N/mm, where the textile strengthening elements form a net-type strengthening structure with a pore size in the range of 5 mm to 30 mm, said pore size being a multiple of the pore size of the basic structure.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The implant according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the basic structure comprises knitware.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 3, wherein the strengthening elements are laid or knitted into the basic structure.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the basic structure comprises non-absorbable material or very slowly absorbable material that retains at least 50% of its initial tear-strength after 180 days in-vivo.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 5, wherein the basic structure comprises multi-filament yarn made of polypropylene.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the basic structure comprises absorbable multi-filament yarn.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the basic structure has at least one component selected from the group consisting of yarn of poly-p-dioxanone, yarn of a copolymer of L-lactide and glycolide in the ratio of 10:90, yarn of a copolymer of L-lactide and glycolide in the ratio of 95:5, yarn of a copolymer of L-lactide and glycolide in a different ratio.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the strengthening elements comprise at least one component selected from the group consisting of pure mono-filaments, twisted mono-filaments, twisted multi-filament yarns, and composite multi-filament yarns.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 9, wherein the strengthening elements comprise at least one component selected from the group consisting of mono-filaments of polypropylene, multi-filament yarns of polypropylene, mono-filaments of poly-p-dioxanone, multi-filament yarns of a copolymer of L-lactide and glycolide in the ratio of 10:90, and yarns of poly-p-dioxanone.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein at least part of the strengthening elements has a color different from that of the basic structure.